



Government Terms

Designated School Official (DSO) - the main contact at universities for international students on an F-1 visa

Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) - the main contact at universities for international students on an J-1 visa

F-1-Student/J-1 Student

I-20/DS-2019 - physical representation of SEVIS record and invitation to study in the U.S. from an SEVP certified school. The I-20 is issued to F-1 students and the DS-2019 is issued to J-1 students.

Visa - a travel document issued by a consular officer at the Department of State allowing a non citizen to request entrance to the United States in a specific status

F-1 Grace Period - 60-day period at the end of an F-1 Academic Period or Post Completion Employment Benefit during which students cannot work but may remain in the United States

J-1 Grace Period - 30-day period at the end of an J-1 Academic Period or Post Completion Employment Benefit during which students cannot work but may remain in the United States

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) - Employment Benefit available for eligible F-1 Students for off campus employment during their program of study

Academic Training - Employment benefit available for eligible J-1 students during or after their program of study

Optional Practical Training (OPT) - 12 Month Employment Benefit available for eligible F-1 Students

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) - The Federal Agency under the purview of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that oversees lawful immigration to and changes of immigration status within the United States.

Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) - a web-based database that the U.S. government uses to maintain accurate and current information on non-immigrant students

SEVP-Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) - is the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program that administers the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) - is a federal agency designed to protect the United States against threats. Its wide-ranging duties include aviation security, border control, emergency response and cybersecurity. Has jurisdiction over immigration services, as well as other functions

Department of Labor (DOL) - A cabinet-level department of the U.S. federal government responsible for occupational safety, wage and hour standards, unemployment insurance benefits, and other employment related matters.

Department of State (DOS) - functions as the diplomatic wing of the federal government, handling matters of foreign affairs with other nations and international bodies. The State Department's primary job is to promote American foreign policy throughout the world.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - Responsible for investigations, detention, removal, intelligence and SEVIS info, SEVIS Fee, Login, and bi-annual school audits.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) - Responsible for immigration inspections at POE's, boarder patrol and customer service.